

United States Courts Southern  
District of Texas  
FILED

*1/27/2021*

Nathan Ochsner, Clerk of Court

[REDACTED]

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**From:** "Barned-Smith, St John" <St.John.Smith@chron.com>  
**Date:** January 27, 2021 at 1:17:01 PM CST  
**To:** George Hanks [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Request to unseal a sealed order

**CAUTION - EXTERNAL:**

Good afternoon, Judge Hanks.

My name is St. John Barned-Smith and I cover public safety for the Houston Chronicle. I noticed in PACER that yesterday, a sealed order was filed in case **4:19-cr-00832, USA v. Goines et al.** This case regards grave misconduct within the Houston Police Department which led to the deaths of two Houstonians, and is of vital interest to the public.

I am writing to request that this order be unsealed. I do not believe there is any reason these court proceedings should be shielded from public scrutiny, particularly in this present climate – and especially in this case, which continues to generate significant interest, two years after the deaths of Dennis Tuttle and Rhogena Nicholas.

Thank you for your consideration,

St. John Barned-Smith  
Houston Chronicle  
617-938-7175

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